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- Byrne, Barry Anthony
 Wokingham RG41 4LJ (GB)
- White, Clive John
 Berks RG41 3AL (GB)
- Press, James
 Bedfordshire, SG 18 OHP (GB)
- McMahon, Piers
 Westlea, SN5 7EH (GB)

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(71) Applicant: **PLATINUM TECHNOLOGY IP, INC.**
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-5241 (US)

(74) Representative: **Gesthuysen, von Rohr & Eggert**
Patentanwälte
Postfach 10 13 54
45013 Essen (DE)

(72) Inventors:
 • Creighton Broadhurst, Christopher John
 Farley Hill Reading RG 1 1UU (GB)

(54) **System and method for web server user authentication**

(57) A method and a system for automatically authenticating a user to applications in a network environment are proposed. After an initial authentication procedure, the user's identity is mapped into a network credential which includes the user's role, and which is formed into a cookie. To gain access to an application requiring authentication, the cookie is provided to a script, and the information contained in the cookie is used to obtain authentication data required by the desired application.

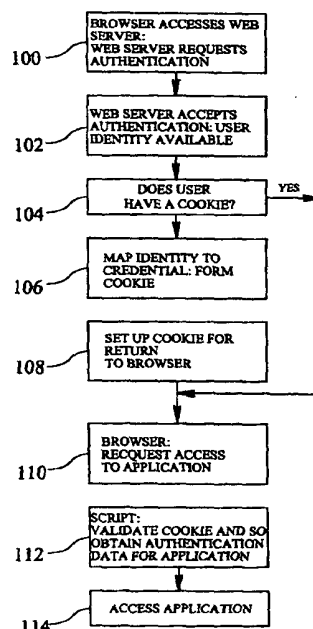


Fig. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 11 6343

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A	WO 98 02828 A (BELLSOUTH CORP) 22 January 1998 (1998-01-22) * abstract * * page 9, line 23 - page 11, line 3 * * figures 1-3 *	1-12	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			H04L 606F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 25 April 2002	Examiner Lázaro, M.L.
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82